

ARTICLE ROUND-UP

July – August 2008

ECONOMIC SECURITY (ES)

1. Economic Realities Are Killing Our Era of Fantasy Politics

Matt Taibbi, AlterNet, posted July 19, 2008, 7 pages

The author, a writer for *Rolling Stone* magazine, predicts that during the coming presidential election campaign, the Republican and Democratic candidates and the media will feed the American public storylines couched as the "national debate" that will obscure what he sees as the most pressing issue—the disappearance of the American middle class. Writes Taibbi, "median income has declined by almost \$2,500 over the past seven years, we have zero personal savings rate in America for the first time since the Great Depression, and 5 million people have slipped below the poverty level since the beginning of the decade." He says the national debate will not focus on haves and have-nots, rich and poor, or employers versus employees. The debate will not touch on the military contractors who are making huge profits from the war in Iraq, an issue that Taibbi calls "a profound expression of our national priorities, a means of taking money from ordinary, struggling people and redistributing it not downward but upward, to connected insiders, who turn your tax money into pure profit." With the manufacturing sector of the U.S. economy being shipped abroad, the service/managerial economy can no longer support a healthy middle class. He says the Democratic Party does not embrace the issue of declining living standards because it is funded by corporate money, just as the Republican Party is. Available online at <http://www.alternet.org/workplace/91927/?page=entire>

2. American Foreign Assistance Still Valued Abroad

Surya Prasai, American Chronicle, January 31, 2008, 4 pages

The U.S. Agency for International Development has taken some bold steps in transforming foreign assistance, the author writes. First, the Global Development Commons unites all parties with a stake in international development through communications technology. The Commons is a network of websites, blogs, chat rooms and conferences that allows users to communicate with each other and search for information. Prasai believes the network could help people in the development community form partnerships faster. Other efforts involve expanding partnerships to include rural community leaders, private nonprofit groups, small-scale women entrepreneurs, immigrants, environmentalists and faith healers. The author cites USAID's approach in Nepal, which, by reaching out and being open to new partnerships, has allowed the Nepali people to decide what they want for democracy, economic prosperity and peace and security. Another form of partnership is being provided by USAID's Global Development Alliance, which mobilizes the private sector's ideas, skills and financial resources to help people in the developing world. Prasai notes that several development initiatives, such as anti-drug and anti-malaria campaigns, are implemented jointly by USAID and the Department of Defense.

3. Ocean Motion Power

Elisabeth Jeffries, Worldwatch, vol. 21, no. 4, July/August 2008, pp. 22-27

Harnessing the power of the seas to produce energy is an emerging technology, even though there's been speculation about its possibilities for almost a century. Jeffries examines the efforts of several companies working to develop the hardware and the science that might make ocean power possible. The article examines generating power from wave motion or from tidal flows. Several coastal areas

off Europe have the greatest potential for development of the technologies, given their wave and tidal patterns. While several groups are working the problem, only one company, the British firm Marine Current Turbines, has produced grid power generated by tidal energy. Jeffries notes that the technology needs a breakthrough in converting wave energy into electricity, an approach that will develop the right conversion process and build a reasonably priced generating device that can survive the elements.

4. Balancing the Risks of Inflation in Asia

Jonathan Anderson, *Far Eastern Economic Review*, July 4, 2008, 4 pages

According to most policy makers, the biggest threat to Asian economic stability today is inflation. For years, the inflation rates of Asian countries have been extremely low. In countries such as China, Singapore, and Taiwan, year-on-year CPI inflation was close to 1%, and rates in Malaysia, South Korea and Thailand were not much higher. However, as of mid-2008, inflation rates across Asia have seen a dramatic jump that has policy makers worried, as inflation rates hover near 8% in places such as China, Singapore, Hong Kong and reach double digits in India, and Indonesia.

According to many experts, the recent inflation jump across the world is mainly driven by food prices. CPI inflation rate for food in emerging markets skyrocketed over the past 12 months, from 6% in the middle of 2007 to around 17% mid-2008. Although many argue that the increase in inflation can also be blamed on high oil prices, the price of oil has not jumped at the rate as that of food. Corn and wheat prices have doubled since 2007, Asian rice prices are three times higher compared to last year, and fertilizer prices have jumped 400 percent.

The drastic jump in food prices can be attributed to many causes, such as poor harvests, liquidity into commoditized agriculture markets with creation of new index products and investments funds, etc. Food prices are predicted to stabilize in the second half of the year, as exporters such as Vietnam already begin to ease trade restrictions. For now, consumers in emerging markets are feeling the pain, and governments have tough decisions to make, but the situation has not yet reached the point at which threatens growth prospects and creates economic disaster. If food prices keep increasing, then the situation will become more serious, but it is more likely that the situation will stabilize within a few years.

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES (DGI)

5. The Ethics of Climate Change: Pay Now or Pay More Later?

John Broome, *Scientific American*, vol. 298, no. 5, May 2008. 7 pages

The author notes that future generations will suffer most of the harmful effects of global climate change; yet if the world economy grows, they will be richer than we are. The present generation must decide, with the help of expert advice from economists, whether to aggressively reduce the chances of future harm or to let our descendants largely fend for themselves. Economists cannot avoid making ethical choices in formulating their advice; even the small chance of utter catastrophe from global warming raises special problems for ethical discussion. Currently available online at <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=the-ethics-of-climate-change>

6. Crossing Lines

Megan Garber, *Columbia Journalism Review*, July-August 2008, 11 pages

Michael Happy, a Detroit News sports reporter, is blurring the lines between “objective” reporting and advocacy—and he doesn’t care. A former resident of Fletcher Field, a five-acre neighborhood near Detroit’s City Airport, Happy launched last year a blog on the newspaper’s Web site called “Going Home: A Journal on Detroit’s Neighborhoods.” Working with community leaders, the blog has served as a voice to the “invisible” poor and a tool for coalition building and advocacy. Current residents, many of whom do not have access to computers, funnel their personal stories to community leaders, who then communicate them to Happy. Fletcher Field is still poor, rundown and extremely dangerous, but changes have been impressive. Thanks to the blog, the neighborhood has gotten attention and help from former residents and city officials, who have mobilized to improve the park and overall living conditions. Happy acknowledges that some observers feel the blog “teeters on the line between ethical and unethical journalism,” but he adds: “I got into this business to try to help people— I think the park project, its aftermath and this blog are doing just that.” Available online at http://www.cjr.org/feature/crossing_lines.php?page=3

7. Can a Million Tons of Sulfur Dioxide Combat Climate Change?

Chris Mooney, Wired, vol. 16, no. 7, July 2008, pp. 128-133

Reducing greenhouse gases is the strategy most discussed in political circles as means to address climate change. In scientific circles, however, cooling the planet by “salting” the oceans or the atmosphere with substances that might change the chemistry of global warming is gaining increasing attention. These methods are called geoengineering and might involve a vast dispersal of sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere to reflect the sun’s rays away from Earth. Setting tiny reflectors afloat in the oceans is another planet-cooling strategy that has received some study. Though these ideas sound almost like comic-book plans, serious scientists are weighing the data in the face of the likelihood that humankind can not wean itself from fossil fuels rapidly enough to stop the melting of the glaciers. Mooney focuses on a scientist who has become an unlikely advocate of such strategies. Ken Caldeira was an anti-nuclear activist in the 1980s, but the winding path of his scientific career has led him to the creation of models that indicate that spewing millions of tons of sulfur dioxide would deflect enough heat to prevent the melting of ice caps and the resulting sea level rise. Available online at http://www.wired.com/science/planetearth/magazine/16-07/ff_geoengineering

8. The Migration History of Humans: DNA Study Traces Human Origins Across the Continents

Gary Stix, Scientific American, July 2008, 6 pages

DNA furnishes an ever-clearer picture of the multi-millennial trek of ancient humans from Africa all the way to the tip of South America. Scientists trace the path of human migrations by using bones, artifacts and DNA. Although ancient objects can be hard to find, DNA from contemporary humans can be compared to determine how long an indigenous population has lived in a region. The latest studies survey swaths of entire genomes and produce maps of human movements across much of the world. They also describe how people’s genes have adapted to changes in diet, climate and disease. Currently available online at <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=the-migration-history-of-humans>

9. The End of Theory: The Data Deluge Makes the Scientific Method Obsolete

Chris Anderson, Wired, vol. 16, no. 7, July 2008, 106-121

A petabyte is one quadrillion bytes, and Google’s servers process that amount of data every 72 minutes. Anderson posits that the arrival of the Petabyte Age and the capability to gather, store and examine massive amounts of data may bring the end of another age, the Age of Science as we know it. For centuries, scientists have developed a hypothesis, then accumulated data and studied it with

hopes of substantiating the hypothesis. The availability of mountains of data may obviate the need for a hypothesis and prove that the data itself reveals the basis for new conclusions. In a series of brief articles by various writers, this theory is tested in a number of fields, including agricultural production prediction, the legal discovery process, prediction of crisis outbreaks, disease surveillance, voting behavior, and other topics. In agriculture, for instance, the consulting firm Lansworth made more accurate predictions about the U.S. corn crop than the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Lansworth based its predictions on satellite data, digital soil maps, and weather forecasts, while USDA conducted interviews with select farmers in certain regions to gather data to make its predictions. Available online at http://www.wired.com/science/discoveries/magazine/16-07/pb_theory

10. The Changing Face of Breast Cancer

Kathleen Kingsbury, Time, Vol. 170, No. 16, October 15, 2007, pp. 36-43

Breast cancer is the most lethal form of cancer for women worldwide. About 1 million cases are diagnosed a year, and about half a million women will die from the disease. Historically, the majority of cases of breast cancer have been in the Western industrialized nations; however, incidence of breast cancer is growing in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. The author notes that, due to better sanitation and improved public health, more women are living to an age at which they're more susceptible to breast cancer. Other major risk factors are the habits of modern Western life, such as foods rich in fat, lack of exercise, and obesity. The genetic makeup of some ethnic groups may cause greater predisposed risk to the disease. The major challenges in many countries, says the author, are developing public education and accessible medical care, as well as removing the social stigma of breast cancer in many traditional cultures.

11. Virtual Connections

Gautham Nagesh, Government Executive, Vol. 40, No. 8, July 2008, pp. 24-28

The author covers U.S. government agencies' efforts to widen public outreach and improve internal communication in the online world. The Center for Disease Control's Second Life site makes it possible to connect directly with the audience and help them access public health information more easily. The Environmental Protection Agency's official blog [<http://blog.epa.gov/blog>] offers an in-depth look at its work in defense of the environment. The Defense Department's site [<http://www.dodvclips.mil>] posts briefings about the wars in Iraq and in Afghanistan, along with speeches from top military officials and footage from across the globe. Intellipedia, the online encyclopedia for intelligence agencies, and its sister Diplopedia, for the State Department, provide the latest information via their agencies intranets, but access is limited to those employees with appropriate security clearance. The article is available online at <http://www.govexec.com/features/0708-01/0708-01s2.htm>

12. No-Till: How Farmers Are Saving the Soil By Parking Their Plows

John Reganold and David Huggins, Scientific American, Vol. 299, No. 1, July 2008, 5 pages

The age-old practice of turning the soil before planting a new crop is a leading cause of farmland degradation. Many farmers are looking to make plowing a thing of the past. Conventional plow-based farming leaves soil vulnerable to erosion and promotes agricultural runoff. Growers in some parts of the world are turning to a sustainable approach called no-till that minimizes soil disturbance. High equipment costs and a steep learning curve are two factors hindering widespread adoption of no-till practices. Currently available online at <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=no-till>

13. A Partnership of Equals: How Washington Should Respond to China's Economic Challenge

Fred C. Bergsten, *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 87, No. 4, July-August 2008, 6 pages

According to Bergsten, director of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, China has become one of the world economic superpowers even though it has an authoritarian government and most of the population remains poor. While the U.S. and the European Union strive to bring China into the world economic order they have built and defended for 60 years, China is increasingly challenging that order without offering a real alternative. Even though China has the biggest stake in the global trading system, its refusal to participate constructively in WTO negotiations almost guarantees disastrous failure for the round. Possibly even worse, China's challenge to the international monetary system by intervening massively in the foreign-exchange markets to maintain a hugely undervalued yuan, contrary to IMF rules, has created imbalances that could trigger a crash in the U.S. dollar and wreck economies around the world. China is similarly acting uncooperatively in commodity markets, environmental negotiations, and foreign aid. "China continues to act like a small country with little impact on the global system at large and therefore little responsibility for it," Bergsten writes. What the U.S. should do is approach China to provide joint leadership of the global economic system. China's own interests should lead it to accept an invitation to accept increasing responsibility for the functioning of the world economy. Currently available online at <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20080701faessay87404/c-fred-bergsten/a-partnership-of-equals.html>

14. IMF Finally Knocks on Uncle Sam's Door

David Hirst, *The Age*, June 30, 2008, 3 pages

The reported forthcoming investigation of the U.S. Federal Reserve by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) signals a loss of the Fed's credibility and a blow to the integrity of the U.S. financial system. David Hirst, writing a column in *The Age of Australia*, quoted *Der Spiegel* as writing that the IMF investigation "is nothing less than an x-ray of the entire U.S. financial system" in which the Fed has bailed out profligate U.S. financial institutions. But Hirst holds little hope that the IMF investigation will help reform the U.S. financial system. Rather, he predicts that it will "be buried in the United States by pom-pom waving on CNBC telling all what a great time it is to buy." Hirst reports that other financial groups have similarly dim assessments of the Fed's performance in dealing with the financial scandals during the current administration. He notes, however, that other leading members of the IMF such as Canada, Britain, and Italy have undergone similar investigations. "Meanwhile, the U.S. markets have entered bear territory, the economy has done likewise and we are at the beginning of a long and tortuous process before rebuilding can even commence," Hirst writes. Available online at <http://business.theage.com.au/business/imf-finally-knocks-on-uncle-sams-door-20080629-2yui.html?page=fullpage>

15. Following the Money

Katherine M. Peters, *Government Executive*, Vol. 40, No. 6, June 2008, pp. 28-38

The author believes that understanding how terrorists finance their operations is key to predicting and thwarting attacks. Recently declassified documents captured in Afghanistan after the U.S. invasion in 2001 showed that al Qaeda members were under pressure to not waste the organization's money. Al Qaeda tended to rely on an informal system of money movers and bulk cash couriers. The first executive order President Bush issued following the attacks directed the Treasury Department to designate and freeze the assets of al Qaeda and the Taliban. Since then, tracking terrorist financing has been a central component of the administration's efforts to combat terrorism,

involving law enforcement and intelligence agencies, international partners and the private sector. Critics of this effort question its utility, noting that terrorist organizations spend relatively little to mount their attacks. Such criticism misses the broader context in which terrorism thrives—the training, travel and operational support that terrorists require to be successful and the security costs protecting the safe havens from which terrorists can plan and organize their operations.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY (IS)

16. Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict

Maria Stephan, Erica Chenoweth, *International Security*, Vol. 33, No. 1, Summer 2008, pp.7-44

Maria Stephan, Director of Educational Initiatives at the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict, and Erica Chenoweth, Professor of Government at Wesleyan University, note that the historical record indicates that nonviolent campaigns have been more successful than armed campaigns in achieving ultimate goals in political struggles, even when used against similar opponents and in the face of repression. Nonviolent campaigns are more likely to win legitimacy, attract widespread domestic and international support, neutralize the opponent's security forces, and compel loyalty shifts among erstwhile opponents than are armed campaigns, which enjoin the active support of a relatively small number of people, offer the opponent a justification for violent counterattacks, and are less likely to prompt loyalty shifts and defections. The authors test their claims based on data of all known major nonviolent and violent resistance campaigns from 1900 to 2006. They assert that these dynamics are further explored in case studies of resistance campaigns in Southeast Asia that have featured periods of both violent and nonviolent resistance.

17. Winning or Losing?

Dylan Thomas, *Economist*, July 17, 2008, 4 pages

Is the United States winning or losing the war against al-Qaeda? There is no clear-cut answer, says the author, who notes that “part of the problem lies in al-Qaeda’s diffuse nature. Its core members may number only hundreds, but it has connections of all kinds to militant groups with thousands or even tens of thousands of fighters. Al-Qaeda is a terrorist organization, a militant network and a subculture of rebellion all at the same time.” The Internet, Thomas says, helps bind together jihadist groups. But the most immediate global threat, he says, “comes from the ungoverned, undergoverned and ungovernable areas of the Muslim world.” These include the Afghan-Pakistani border, parts of Iraq, Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, Yemen, Somalia, and parts of Indonesia and the Philippines. Currently available online at http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story_id=11701218

18. How American Treaty Behavior Threatens National Security

Antonia Chayes, *International Security*, Vol. 33, No. 1, Summer 2008, pp. 45-81

Chayes, visiting professor at Tufts University’s Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, asserts that current U.S. treaty behavior is antiquated in this era of globalization and interdependence. According to her, it has produced growing concern among both allies and less friendly nations. The U.S. has generated confusion and anger abroad on such fundamental issues as nuclear proliferation, terrorism, human rights, civil liberties, environmental disasters, and commerce. The author emphasizes that such a climate is not conducive to international cooperation in the conduct of foreign and security policy. Among U.S. actions that have caused concern are the failure to ratify several treaties; the attachment of reservations, understandings, and declarations before ratification;

the failure to support a treaty regime once ratified; and treaty withdrawal. The author argues that the structural and historical reasons for American treaty behavior are deeply rooted in the U.S. system of government and do not merely reflect superpower arrogance. Nonetheless, the world confronts too many global problems that will take far longer to solve, and probably cannot be solved, without the United States.

19. The Security Impact of Neurosciences

Jonathan Huang and Margaret Kosal, *The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, Electronic Newsletter, June 20, 2008, 6 pages

The authors explore research into human brain functions, including neural imaging or neuron imaging, neuropharmacology and brain-machine interactions. Neuroscience applications could one day be used to change or enhance human capabilities; they might even be used in the future to access private thoughts. As a recent example of neuropharmacological use, the article cites the use of calmatives by the Russian military in 2002. An overdose of a fentanyl derivative was used to kill Chechen terrorists, but had the calamitous side effect of killing hundreds of civilian hostages at the same time. Other neuropharmaceutical applications could be used to improve memory or treat individuals diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. The article also raises the possibility that thoughts might one day remotely operate a robot or unmanned vehicle in a hostile environment. The authors, both affiliated with Georgia Institute's Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, raise a number of questions such as what impact this research will have globally and what international regimes might develop as a result. Available online at <http://thebulletin.org/web-edition/features/the-security-impact-of-the-neurosciences>

20. New Opportunities for Nonproliferation

Thomas Pickering, *Arms Control Today*, Vol. 38, No. 5, June 2008, pp. 11-14

The author, former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, says that the next administration needs to form a broad strategy on the issues associated with nonproliferation, disarmament, terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. He advocates a careful blend of multilateral initiatives, bilateral agreements and unilateral actions. The former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations also emphasizes the import comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty. Ambassador Pickering proposes advancing an international nuclear fuel regime. "We should try to eliminate nuclear weapons altogether," he says, starting with steps to strengthen U.S.-Russian bilateral arms control and to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty and the 2002 Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty. Pickering, who served as ambassador to Moscow, also suggests that the two nations consider reducing and eliminating tactical nuclear weapons. He also says more serious thought should be given to the role of the U.N. Security Council with respect to proliferation. Available online at <http://www.armscontrol.org/node/2937>

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

21. The Innovation Imperative

American Theatre, July/August 2008, pp. 36-41

American theaters are looking for innovative methods to increase their attendance and solvency. In November of last year, the Theatre Communications Group (TCG) held a two-day event called "Cultivating Innovation: From the Board Room to the Box Office", focusing on new ideas to help

non-profit theaters. The author cites the New York Metropolitan Opera, which is increasing opera's audience by transmitting production into several hundred movie theaters in North America and Europe, advertising on New York buses, and doing telecasts on screens in Times Square and Lincoln Center. Another area ripe for reconsideration is the traditional expectation that 50 to 70 percent of theater's budget should be derived from ticket sales; this is changing, as endowments have grown in size, allowing some theaters to cut ticket prices to attract a younger audience and increase attendance. In the end, each theater company must find its own innovative way to financial stability. Available online at <http://www.tcg.org/publications/at/julyaugust08/fallforum.cfm>

22. My Wired Youth

Virginia Heffernan, New York Times Magazine, February 3, 2008, pp. 20-21

Heffernan remembers her adolescence 25 years ago when she discovered the nascent Internet through Xcaliber, an early social-networking technology developed by Dartmouth College. Using Xcaliber, Virginia discovered Conference XYZ, a live chat option on the network. XYZ became Virginia's hobby: "For years, I dated, studied, endured heartbreak and hazing and crossed and double-crossed everyone in a mysterious online netherworld called Xcaliber. By the time I turned 13, I was confident I knew every single person online. Xcaliber taught me to type, talk to adults, experiment with fantastic personas and new idioms, spot lechers by their online styles and avoid ideologues who post in all caps." In all this was an exciting, albeit possibly dangerous online world for a teenager to explore. Having explored an early version of the internet has allowed Virginia to understand and identify with the experiences of today's teenagers as they chat on the internet, just as she did, 25 years ago.

23. Continuity and Change in the Pursuit of a Democratic Public Mission for our Schools

Thomas G Bellamy and John Goodlad, Phi Delta Kappan, Vol. 89, no. 8, April 2008, 7 pages

American schools must not be limited to goals with a narrow academic focus or the pursuit of test scores. An essential mission of U.S. schools—and the one historically that motivated earlier generations to found and support public schools—is to ensure that each new generation "understands the principles and institutions that support democratic life," say Bellamy, a professor of education at the University of Washington, and Goodlad, an emeritus professor of education at the same school who is now president of the Institute for Educational Inquiry. In a democracy, schools have special responsibilities, and educators, local public groups and policy makers need to collaborate and to support local deliberative processes if educational renewal is to prove possible. Schools are more like gardens than machines, say Bellamy and Goodlad. For educators, local groups or federal policy makers to try to gain control and impose their once-and-for-all priorities is to miss the garden aspect of education—high-quality schools are most likely to result from "continued small adjustments to goals that emerge from the informal democracy of local dialogue." The authors describe how a partnership was created with this end in view between the college of education and the departments of the arts and sciences in several universities and a number of nearby elementary and secondary schools that provide student teaching experiences for future teachers. This partnership has led to the creation of the National Network for Educational Renewal (NNER), which seeks simultaneously to re-orient K-12 education towards more thoughtful and informed participation in a democracy and to improve the quality of preparation of educators in public schools.

24. Have you Googled Your Teacher Lately? Teachers' Use of Social Networking Sites

Heather Carter and Teresa Foulger, Ann Dutton Ewbank, Phi Delta Kappan, Vol. 89, no. 9, May 2008, 5 pages

Social networking sites have become so popular that some young teachers do not seem to recognize the need to exercise care before they post on popular sites such as MySpace, FaceBook or YouTube. The authors, all of whom are involved in teacher education at Arizona State University, recognize that social networking is a potentially beneficial tool for educators and cite some of the ways in which experienced teachers have used it to enhance instruction, to establish deeper relationships with students or to remind students of deadlines and quizzes. But the inability of some to understand that teachers are held to a higher standard of moral behavior than the general population has resulted in a growing number of incidents that are affecting the entire profession, as careers are ruined by a nude photo, intemperate remarks about professional frustrations, reference to sex or alcohol or use of profanity. State certification procedures often mandate that teachers shall not “engage in conduct which would discredit the teaching profession.” The Ohio Education Association is now strongly discouraging its members from joining social networking sites. U.S. courts, while recognizing the free speech rights of teachers, balance those rights against the ability of the government employer to maintain an efficiently-run organization. The authors want teacher preparation and in-service programs to make all teachers aware of the public nature of the Internet and of the negative impact exposing their personal lives can have on their careers.

25. American Teachers: What do They Believe?

Robert O. Slater, The Education Digest, May 2008, Vol. 73 Issue 9, p 47-51, 5pages

The article examines the types of values that American teachers view as important. The article discusses how in addition to teaching reading, writing, and mathematics, teachers are often times teaching social values as well. To gain a better sense of what American teachers' values are, the article cites the National Opinion Research Center's General Social Survey, which is one of the largest, most reliable, and frequently used data sets in the social sciences. The article presents a summary description of some values of America's elementary and secondary school teachers gleaned from data collected from 1972 to 2006. Some of the topics featured in the article include free speech, economic inequality, human nature, and the democratic ideal.

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